



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

May 2008

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EMPLOYER MEETINGS WILL BE HELD THIS FALL



At this time last year, employers were sending in RSVPs for the 2007 employer meetings. This year, PERSI has decided to hold the meetings in the fall because the Employer Service Center (ESC) will be introducing a number of new endeavors, and the details won't be finalized until summer. Currently the agenda includes the employer self-assessment, an automated data review, and the roll out of a new communications campaign for the Choice Plan 401(k).

How will I find out about the fall meeting?

Employers will be notified about the meeting schedule in their *News to Use* newsletter. You will be given plenty of notice so you can block out the time.

Who should attend the meetings?

All payroll or human resource personnel involved in the transmittal process should attend an employer meeting. *If you are new to PERSI reporting responsibilities, we strongly urge you to attend.* If you are experienced in PERSI reporting, you may learn how to fine tune your reporting skills or resolve particular

problems you have been experiencing. Employer representatives at all levels of experience will benefit from learning about all the new "stuff" being introduced.

What to expect from a meeting

During the meeting, ESC will review current reporting practices, provide training, discuss recent changes, and answer questions about PERSI reporting issues.

Where are meetings held?

PERSI holds meetings at different venues throughout the state — usually a local hotel — to accommodate as many employers as possible. ESC staff travels from points north and south, to points east and west to offer employers as many opportunities as possible over a 6-8 week period.

If you have any questions about or suggestions for the fall employer meetings, please contact ESC toll-free at 866-887-9525 or 208-287-9525 in the Boise area.

CHECK EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR YOUR PERSI CONTACTS

PERSI is asking employers to check the email addresses they use for their PERSI contacts. Nearly 18 months ago, PERSI changed to a persi.idaho.gov domain. The old domain (persi.state.id.us) remained intact behind the scenes so email would not be returned as undeliverable. Now that the old domain may be removed permanently, it's important that the persi.idaho.gov domain be used for your emails to PERSI. If you have questions about email or other issues, the phone list below may be helpful:

PERSI Contact Phone Numbers:

- PERSI Answer Center (PAC) 208-334-3365 (Boise) or toll-free 800-451-8228 for member issues or for information on the educational workshops (PERSI Web site for online registration)
- ESC toll-free 866-887-9525 or 208-287-9525 (Boise) for employer issues
- ACS - the Choice Plan 401(k) record keeper 1-866-437-3774 for Choice Plan issues

WHAT HAPPENED TO PERSI-RELATED LEGISLATION?

The Legislature adjourned several weeks ago, so it's time to update employers on the various PERSI-related bills from the 2008 session:

SB 1367 - Divest PERSI Retirement Funds from Sudan. This bill would have required PERSI to identify and divest from companies doing business in the Sudan. *The motion to send the bill to the floor with a Do Pass recommendation failed on a 4-5 vote.*

[NOTE: Last year, PERSI conducted an extensive study on the Sudan divestment issue and determined that divestment was not in the best interest of the beneficiaries of the fund, and that divesting would violate the fiduciary duty of the Board. In addition, the system would incur increased costs, would see decreased investment returns, and such a bill would put the Legislature in an investment management role. Lastly, the study concluded that divestment would have no impact on the genocide taking place in Darfur. For these reasons, PERSI did not support the bill.]

SB 1368 - Remove the Cap from the State Retiree Medical (Sick Leave) Plan. This bill proposed lifting the cap on the amount of sick leave state employees could use to pay retiree medical insurance premiums, making the state plan comparable to the current school district plan. *No action was taken this session.*

SB 1447 - State Employee/Retiree Health Insurance Eligibility. This bill was intended to amend existing law relating to the Department of Administration and group insurance. It would have revised the powers and duties of the Director of the Department of Administration regarding group insurance, created a Group Insurance Fund, and provided contributions on the basis of appropriated salaries. Under this bill, beginning January 1, 2009, retirees would not be covered under the state plan if they were eligible for Medicare, and beginning July 1, 2008, eligible retirees would have received \$155 per month towards health insurance premiums until they became Medicare eligible. *After passing in the Senate, the bill was referred to the House State Affairs Committee where it was placed on hold (no action this year).*

HB 362 - Revise Compensation for members of the Board of Podiatry. This bill changed the compensation for board members on the State Board of Podiatry to remove them from PERSI. *The Governor signed the bill; it will go into effect July 1, 2008.*

That's it until next year!

Notes

PERSI Retirement Board Chairman [Jody Olson](#) was reelected to the Board of the Council of Institutional Investors, a non-profit shareowner-rights organization that works to educate members and the public about corporate governance.

Recognizing email as a powerful tool for communicating with members, PERSI Answer Center (PAC) Supervisor [Kim Hall](#) arranged for the PAC staff to participate in a webinar that focused on the best way to use email to serve customers.

Executive Director [Alan Winkle](#) had the PERSI management team and others spend approximately 3 hours per week over the past 6 weeks reviewing and discussing the Idaho statutes relating to the retirement system. He wanted to ensure PERSI leadership understood and applied the Idaho Code to both operational issues and dealings with members.